

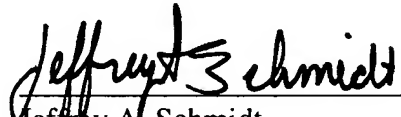
**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**  
**Cont. Appln. Of U.S. Appln. No. 10/247,477**

**Atty. Dkt No. Q78164**

**REMARKS**

Entry and consideration of this Amendment are respectfully requested. After entry of this Amendment, claims 5 and 6 will be pending. Claims 1-4 and 7-9 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Respectfully submitted,

  
Jeffrey A. Schmidt  
Registration No. 41,574

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
Telephone: (202) 293-7060  
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: October 29, 2003